

Common Plants of Riparian Areas - Central – Southwest Texas

With Wetland Indicator (WI) and Proposed Stability Rating (SR)

Sedges / Grasses	WI	SR	Forbs	WI	SR	Woody	WI	SR
Spikerushes (most)	OBL	6	Water willow	OBL	7	Buttonbush	OBL	8
Emory sedge	OBL	9	Ludwigia	OBL	3	Bald Cypress	OBL	9
Sawgrass	OBL	9	Watercress *	OBL	3	Indigobush amorphia	OBL	7
Rice cutgrass	OBL	6	Scouring rush	OBL	6	Seepwillow baccharis		
Water bentgrass	OBL	5	Marsh aster	OBL	3	(B. salicifolia)	FACW	6
Cattail	OBL	9	Marsh fleabane	OBL	5	Black willow	FACW	7
Bulrushes (most)	OBL	9	Smooth bidens	OBL	5	Arroyo willow	FACW	7
Porcupine sedge	OBL	5	Water hyssop	OBL	3	Sandbar willow	FACW	7
Black sedge	OBL	6	Burhead	OBL	3	Spiny aster	FACW	8
Teal lovegrass	OBL	4	Pennywort	OBL	3	Box elder maple	FACW	6
Knotgrass	FACW	6	Monkeyflower	OBL	3	Retama	FACW	6
Hairyseed paspalum	FACW	6	Swamp rosemallow	OBL	5	Possum haw	FACW	6
Bushy bluestem	FACW	5/6	California loostripe	OBL	5	Sycamore	FAC	6
Flatsedges (most)	FACW	5/6	Cardinalflower	FACW	5	Eastern cottonwood	FAC	7
Common reed	FACW	9	Tall aster	FACW	5	Pecan	FAC	6
Gulf cordgrass	FACW	9	Spiny aster	FACW	8	Little walnut	FAC	7
White top sedge	FACW	5/6	Large buttercup	FACW	6	Roosevelt baccharis		
Rushes (most)	OBL or FACW	6	Smartweed (most)	FACW	3	(B. neglecta)	FAC	6
Aparejoggrass	FACW	6	Bog nettle	FACW	5	American elder	FAC	6
Spike bentgrass	FACW	5	Dock (most)	FACW	3/4	Roughleaf dogwood	FAC	6
Barnyardgrass	FACW	4	Mint *	FACW	3	Sugar hackberry	FAC	5
Junglerice *	FACW	4	Smallhead sneezeweed	FACW	3	American elm	FAC	6
Rabbitsfoot grass *	FACW	3	Sesbania	FACW	3	Cedar elm	FAC	6
Carolina canarygrass *	FACW	3	Frogfruit	FAC	4	Mexican ash	FAC	6
Wetland sprangletops	FACW	4	Late boneset	FAC	5	Bur oak	FAC	6
Switchgrass	FAC	9	Ironweed	FAC	5	Chinquapin oak	FAC	6
Eastern gammagrass	FAC	9	Shield fern	FAC	6	Lindheimer indigo	FAC	5
Big sacaton	FAC	9	Giant ragweed	FAC	3	Wafer ash (Ptelea)	FAC	6
Alkali sacaton	FAC	7	Annual sumpweed	FAC	3	Dewberry	FAC	4
Lindheimer muhly	FAC	7	Brazilian verbena *	FAC	4	Greenbriar	FAC	5
Wildrye	FAC	5/6	Cocklebur	FAC	3	Poison ivy	FAC	5
White tridens	FAC	5	Tall goldenrod	FACU	6	Grape vine (most)	FAC	5
Vine-mesquite	FAC	6	Common ragweed	FACU	2	Japanese honeysuckle *	FAC	6
Seep muhly	FAC	6	Frostweed	FACU	6	Live oak	FACU	6
Nimble-will	FAC	5	Maximilian sunflower	FACU	6	Netleaf hackberry	FACU	5
Broadleaf Uniola	FAC	5	Heath aster	FACU	5	Red mulberry	FACU	6
Dallisgrass *	FAC	7	Illinois bundleflower	FACU	4	Mesquite	FACU	5
Vaseygrass *	FAC	5/6	Clammyweed	FACU	3	Huisache	FACU	5
Rustyseed paspalum	FAC	5	Castor bean *	FACU	3	Western soapberry	FACU	6
Giant reed (Arundo)*	FAC	7	Western ragweed	UPL	5	Bumelia	FACU	6
St Augustine grass *	FAC	6	Field ragweed	UPL	5	Black walnut	FACU	6
Buffalograss	FACU	3	Mexican sagewort	UPL	5	Desert willow	FACU	6
Indiangrass	FACU	7	Turk's cap	UPL	5	Carolina snailseed	FACU	4
Johnsongrass *	FACU	6	Toothed goldeneye	UPL	5	Chinese tallow *	FACU	6
Bermudagrass *	FACU	6				Gravelbar bricklebrush	UPL	5
Big sandbur	FACU	7				Slender bricklebrush	UPL	5
Dichanthelium (most)	FACU	4				Burrobush	UPL	6
Southwestern bristle	UPL	5				Whitebrush	UPL	6
King Ranch bluestem *	UPL	5				Juniper	UPL	5
Creeping mully	UPL	6				Mexican persimmon	UPL	5

*Indicates Introduced Species

SR - Stability Ratings (Draft) on a scale of 1 – 10. Based on USFS GTR-47, by Al Winward. Bare ground has a SR of 1. Anchored rock or logs have a SR of 10. A SR of 7 (or 6) is considered the minimum for acceptable bank stability. Woody plants, when associated with stabilizing grasses and sedges provide a higher stability rating than shown

WI - Wetland Indicator Categories (Region 6 USFWS)

OBL Obligate Wetland Almost always occur in wet areas.

FACW Facultative Wetland Occur in wet areas 67-99% probability.

FAC Facultative About equally likely to occur in wet and non wet areas.

FACU Facultative Upland Occur in wet areas 1-33% probability; otherwise, in uplands

UPL Obligate Upland Almost always occur in non wet areas

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What is a Functional Creek?

Creeks and riparian areas function properly when there is:
Adequate Vegetation, Landscape formations, or Large wood to:

- Dissipate stream energy
 - Protect banks / stabilize channel
 - Reduce erosion
 - Slow the velocity of floodwaters
 - Sediment dropped
 - Sediment trapped, and stabilized
 - Build floodplains
 - Provide floodwater retention
 - Enlarge riparian sponge
 - Improve groundwater recharge
 - More water for sustained base-flow

Results:

- Improved water quality
- Sustained flow over time
- Increased forage for livestock
- Excellent fish and wildlife habitat

How:

- Smaller pastures; Rotational grazing
- Riparian pastures; Abbreviated grazing periods; Long rest periods
- Off site water for livestock; Offsite salt, minerals and feeding
- Retain tall dense vegetation with good stabilizing root mass
- Reduced human traffic, Limited mowing, Light grazing

Key Points:

- Slow the water down with dense vegetation
- Keep water on the land longer
- Think Water-catchment, not Water-shed